



NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:

Amy Schwartz, MPH
Division of Disease Control
Phone: 1.800.472.2180
E-mail: amschwartz@nd.gov

North Dakota Department of Health Reminds Parents That Now is the Time to Get Children Vaccinated for School

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health reminds parents to get their children vaccinated now before they head back to school this fall.

Children entering elementary school are required to have five doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis), four doses of IPV (polio), three doses of HBV (hepatitis B), two doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), and two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine.

Adolescents entering seventh grade are required to be immunized against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal disease (MCV4). Health officials highly recommend that children receive three doses of human papillomavirus vaccine starting at age 11 to prevent HPV-related cancers later in life. College students residing in on-campus housing must also have the vaccine that protects against meningococcal disease.

“It’s true that some vaccine-preventable diseases have become very rare thanks to vaccines. However, cases and outbreaks still occur,” said Amy Schwartz, Immunization Surveillance Coordinator. “This year, the United States experienced a large measles outbreak. By requiring vaccines, we hope to minimize the spread of preventable illnesses in schools and provide North Dakota’s children with a healthier environment in which to learn,” said Schwartz.

The school requirements reflect immunization recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Approximately 10 percent of kindergarten and 15 percent of seventh grade students in North Dakota were not up-to-date for various vaccines during the 2014-2015 school year. “These unvaccinated children are at risk of getting serious diseases and spreading them to their classmates,” said Schwartz.

Children can be vaccinated at local public health units or by private health care providers. For more information on school immunization requirements, contact Amy Schwartz, North Dakota Department of Health, at 1.800.472.2180, or visit our website at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize.

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